

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1 and 17 are amended. Support for the changes to the claims is found in the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims and the drawings at least in Figs. 5 and 14. No new matter is added.

In the Official Action, Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 12, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 5,801,774 (Seo); Claims 2 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Seo and in view of U.S. 5,982,429 (Kamamoto); and Claims 3, 5-7, 9, 13-16 and 18 were objected to, but were otherwise indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3, 5-7, 9, 13-16 and 18. However, it is respectfully submitted the other pending claims also contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in light of the following comments.

Further, a telephone interview was conducted with Examiner Aggarwal on August 6 and 9, 2010, to discuss the amendments to the claims submitted herewith and the outstanding Office Action. The examiner indicated that the amendments submitted herewith overcome Seo, but stated further consideration and/or search would be necessary. Accordingly, this Amendment is filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

As discussed at the interview, Claims 1 and 17 now define the claimed handle as having a long axis and a short axis, where the handle extends along the long axis, which is a direction approximately parallel with a light axis direction of a lens system. The handle is provided on an upper portion of the image pickup apparatus body, and a first display device is provided on a front portion (in a light axis direction) of the handle.

At the interview, the examiner indicated the art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest such an arrangement. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection(s) are respectfully requested.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining issues. Otherwise, a timely notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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